

U.S. Embassy Film Contest!

Specific Instructions

All Films Must Finish the Phrase: "Democracy is..."

Kosovo's winners will compete in a world-wide competition. (See below for specifics of world-wide competition and specific eligibility requirements.)

Who eligible? Citizens of Kosovo - NGOs, students, filmmakers

Specifics of the Film:

- 3 minutes (max) film
- in English or with subtitles
- in a DVD format with your:
Name, title of the film, email, phone number

Deadline: Submit by October 31, 2008

Submit DVDs to: The U.S. Embassy of the United States of America
Attn: Aferdita Krasniqi, Cultural Exchanges Asst. 038 5959 3737

Best of Luck!

Democracy Video Challenge Worldwide competition

Democracy Forum: Through its Web site *America.gov*, the State Department seeks to engage the international community in an exploration of democratic freedoms, rights and responsibilities.

Video Challenge: The Department of State's Democracy Video Challenge, managed by International Information Programs (IIP), in partnership with the Bureau of Democracy Human Rights and Labor, will challenge young filmmakers to share their views on democracy by creating a three-minute video that completes the phrase: "***Democracy is...***" U.S. embassies will play a major role in marketing the challenge as well as soliciting and selecting videos that will comprise the pool of semi-finalists. An independent panel of experts will select the finalists based on the production values of their videos and how creatively the films demonstrate the meaning and value of democracy.

Online Voting: Who better to determine which video best captures the promise of democracy than our site's viewers? *America.gov* viewers from around the world will have the opportunity to view the finalist's videos, selected by an independent jury comprised of film experts, civil society as well as the private sector, and choose the winners.

Winners: Contributing film-makers from participating countries will receive a premiere screening in the filmmaker's home country – perhaps at an event hosted by a senior U.S. Embassy official. Our independent jury will select a pool of finalists who will compete for the chance to travel to the United States, have their films screened at a special gala, and participate in a series of events designed to give them first-hand exposure to both the American film industry and U.S. democracy.

Prize:

- *Washington Ceremony/Reception for Winners:* The event would include brief remarks by a senior Department official (e.g., the Secretary of State), presentation of certificates signed by the Secretary of State, and a screening of the winning films. The event would be hosted by a partner organization (e.g., Kennedy Center, American Film Institute, Smithsonian Institution etc.) and would include representatives from the host country embassies, the media etc.;
- *Film Studio:* U.S. film studios (e.g., Disney, Universal) will provide an all inclusive award (e.g., trip to LA, lodging, film set visit, etc) for each winner and:
 - Lunch with a Hollywood director;
 - Half day in an edit suite for a Hollywood production;
 - Half day on set with a director of photography;
 - Attend a film screening or opening in LA.

Selection Process:

- **Preliminary Review:** Conducted by posts with criteria to be established by IIP;
- **Selection of country nominations:** Embassies in receipt of Video Challenge submissions will host a “Democracy Event” designed to screen and select that country's submission(s). The event also provides a useful vehicle for the embassy to engage key counterparts in a democracy discussion;

- Selection of finalists by independent jury comprised of five individuals from democracy (2) and youth (1) organizations, and film experts (2); and
- Winners selected by the public voting on *America.gov*.

Notional Timeline:

- Virtual Launch with Partners: June 2008
- Launch of U.S. Embassy Engagement via July 4th event
- Submissions Due: December 15, 2008
- Embassy sponsored premiere screening: Completed by February 28, 2009
- Finalists Announced: April 1, 2009
- Winner(s) announced May 1, 2009

Contest Requirements:

- Age: 18 minimum
- Medium: Video for the web, documentary or fiction
- Submissions: DVD format with author's name, e-mail and phone number
- Length: Up to three minutes; entries must be in English or with English subtitles. Each submission must include a transcript, video shot list and authorization-to-distribute release form.